

SBOE Policy Regarding Access to Public Records

The North Carolina State Board of Elections office release of public records policy is to be as open as possible while protecting legal privacy or confidentiality issues. Voter registration records, with limited exception are public records in North Carolina. Please refer to [G.S. §132-1\(a\)](#) and [§163-82.10](#).

The following non-confidential data (as set out in [§163-82.10](#)) is collected by the county boards of elections and is available through both the county board of elections and the North Carolina statewide database of registered voters: voter's name, residence address within the county, mailing address, date of registration, party affiliation, voting history, voting districts, polling place assignment, voter identification number, race, ethnicity, gender, and some other non-essential fields may be available if collected by the county board electronically. Date of birth of a voter is generally confidential, but age of that voter can be made available. Note that the only data required to be a registered voter are name, address, date of birth, and signature of the applicant attesting to his/her qualifications, so not all voter registrations may contain all optional non-essential data fields.

By State law, most documents prepared by the State Board of Elections and county boards of elections employees while performing work-related duties are, with some exceptions, public records. It is the intention of the State Board of Elections to be responsive to legal and legitimate public requests for information. If in response to a request, there is confidential data commingled with producible data, there will be no costs charged to the requestor for the review of the data. But the response to the data request may be delayed while the review for confidential data is performed by the agency.

Those documents that are routinely published, such as voter registration statistics, candidate and committee lists and election results can be obtained without the need for a formal public record request. Many of these records can be obtained from the [State Board of Elections web site](#).

Records that require a formal request are:

Specialized reports -- Any reports produced by the State Board of Elections office that are not routinely published (i.e., a list of white, female, voters over the age of 65 who voted in the November 2000 General Election) or otherwise made public can be obtained through a formal public information request. The State Board of Elections office shall provide this information as soon as practicable. Actual cost shall be charged for the cost of specialized reports.

Statewide voter registration files -- Anyone can view basic voter records (excluding voter history) from the State Board of Elections Website. The statewide database can be purchased on CD-ROM for \$25. Photocopies of specific documents from these files can be obtained at actual cost. County-specific reports must be requested from the county board of elections. Statewide or multi-county district reports can be obtained from the State Board of Elections.